



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|

09/082,483 05/20/98 WHITE J AKT2253P1 (23

MM91/1106

PATENT COUNSEL
APPLIED MATERIALS
LEGAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
P O BOX 450A
SANTA CLARA CA 95052

EXAMINER

LUU, P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2824

DATE MAILED:

11/06/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

MM91/1106

PATENT COUNSEL
APPLIED MATERIALS
LEGAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
P O BOX 450A
SANTA CLARA CA 95052

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | TOTAL CLAIMS | EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT | DATE MAILED |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 09/002,483 | 05/20/99 | 083 | LIU, P | 28/4 11/06/00 |
| First Named Applicant | WHITE, 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 days. | | | |

TITLE OF
INVENTION MODULAR SUBSTRATE PROCESSING SYSTEM

| ATTY'S DOCKET NO. | CLASS-SUBCLASS | BATCH NO. | APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | FEE DUE | DATE DUE |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------|--------------------|
| 0 | AKT2253P1 (23 | 438-600.000 | U67 | UTILITY | NO | \$1240.00 02/06/01 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.

Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
09/082,483

Applicant(s)
White et al.

Examiner
Pho Luu

Group Art Unit
2824



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment file on 08/14/2000

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28, 30-33, 35-45, and 47-86

☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. 12.

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 13

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

RICHARD ELMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Art Unit : 2824

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 05/20/1998 was filed after the mailing date of the 07/18/2000. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97.

Accordingly, the petition is granted and the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner's.

The information disclosure statement filed 05/20/1998 was filed after the mailing date of the 03/25/1999. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97.

Accordingly, the petition is granted and the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner's.

Response to Amendment

2. This office action is in response to amendment file on 08/14/2000.

-Claims 59-86 are newly added.

-Claims 29, 34, and 46 has been canceled.

-Claims 1-28, 30-33, 35-45, 47-86 are pending in the application.

Art Unit : 2824

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1--28, 30-33, 35-45, and 47-86 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to teach conveyor to support one or more substrate, plurality of processing islands located adjacent to conveyor, first load lock chamber having first valve, chamber in communication with said first load lock chamber, second load lock, exchange apparatus configured and arranged to retrieve from the conveyor, replace the substrate the conveyor in an apparatus for performing a thin film process.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit : 2824

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Pho M. Luu whose telephone number is (703) 306-5943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms, can be reached on (703) 308-2816. The fax phone number for this group is (703)-308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Pho M. Luu
Art Unit 2824
November, 2000